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Purposes, definitions, obligations, and practices in the education program for agricultural migratory children are clarified in a policy statement. Colorado law provides educational facilities for migrant children to develop their potentialities and capacities. A migrant child is defined by the Migrant Children Educational Act. Common usage and practice are utilized in elaborating upon the definition to determine time periods during which migrant status is maintained and situations where children are considered migrant even when residing in their home districts. Required records are kept on each migrant child received in a school district during regular or summer terms. The schools' responsibilities to migrant children are specified in the Migrant Children Educational Act as the operation of a special summer term for them; the persuasion rather than coercion of migrant children to attend the schools; and the advancement of a curriculum that adjusts learning to the children's individual needs and interests, that emphasizes health knowledge and character development, that relates testing and record information to the purposes to be achieved, and that encourages the parents to enroll the children and the children to remain in school.							
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POLICY STATEMENT RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN

Purpose of this Statement

The purpose of this statement is to clarify the purposes, definitions, obligations, and practices in the program of education for agricultural migratory children.

Purposes of the Program

The intent of the migrant education program in public schools is made clearly evident in the law. It is to provide educational facilities for those children who have migrant status "in order to develop fully (their) capacities and potentialities --- for the benefit of themselves and society ---".

Who is a Migrant Child?

The Migrant Children Educational Act³ provides the definition of a migrant child. Common usage and practice in the state are further bases for understanding.

The Department of Education definition for "migrant child" is: A child in the custody of parents, or persons standing in place of parents, who engage in agricultural labor and at some time temporarily reside in a school district other than the home-base or legal residence school district.

An important question usually must be answered when applying the definition: Is a child of agricultural migrant workers a "migrant child" only when temporarily residing in a school district other than his home-base school district? The acceptable Colorado application of the definition parallels the common usage and understanding of the term "migrant". At least three factors are involved:

Number one: The custodian of the child performs agriculture-related labor;

Number two: The custodian of the child at some time while engaged in agricultural labor resides for a temporary period (which might be

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construed as one night or any longer period) in a school district other than the school district that is claimed to be the home-base of the custodian-worker; and

Number three: The time period during which migrant status is maintained extends for approximately one year following the performance of agriculture-related labor. The continuum of status, for a period of one year, has been determined by the common understanding and usage in the agricultural economy. The actual status, of course, depends upon performance of agricultural labor and the fact of limited temporary residence outside the home school district.

The practical application, therefore, of definition to determine migrant status of a school-age child may reasonably be (1) during regular terms of school the child of agricultural workers has migrant status when he is receiving shelter and the necessities of life in a school district other than the school district of his home base; (2) during summer periods the child also may be considered as having migrant status when in a school district other than his home base district; or (3) during summer periods the child may have migrant status even when he is in his home school district, but due to migrancy-related conditions his educational development has been disconnected or discontinuous. The basic determinants of migrancy, as described in paragraphs immediately above, of course, must be fulfilled.

School District Record of Migrant Children

Each school district receiving migrant children in regular school terms or in summer special terms shall maintain a record of each child containing the information needed to identify the migrant status of the child. This shall include: names of parents or custodians, home base address, type of work done, and location of work.

Responsibilities of Public Schools in the Education of Migrant Children

To fulfill the spirit of the migrant education program and the provisions of the Migrant Children Educational Act several basic responsibilities must be implemented within the school district.

1. Operation of a summer special term for migratory children is a societal obligation voluntarily entered into by any school district where there are domestic agricultural migratory children during the period between spring and fall regular terms of school.
2. Attendance by migrant children in special terms may be voluntary or mandatory as determined by the operating district. School personnel have an obligation to advise the children and parents of the educational opportunity available to them. The practice of persuasion is the most fruitful means to securing cooperative response.

3. The school district operating a special term assumes the responsibilities inherent in achieving the aims of the migrant education program for each child:

- a. To offer a maximal learning opportunity to all migrant children in the school district.
- b. To offer curricular content and methods deemed most suitable for stimulating and aiding intellectual growth and social maturation in the children being served. To recognize any retardation in the children and adjust individualized learning opportunity to pupils' needs.
- c. To contribute to health knowledge and practices for lasting effect in each child and family.
- d. To place deliberate emphasis in program for maximum benefits in character growth.
- e. To relate testing and personal and factual record information to purposes to be achieved.
- f. To aid in developing the interest of the child in attending school, and in encouraging parents to enroll and keep their children in school wherever they go.